

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 18, 22 and 24-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 18 and 22 are amended, claims 5, 7, 12-17, 19-21 and 23 are canceled and claims 24-31 are added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is requested. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

I. **FEBRUARY 6, 2001 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on February 6, 2001. Applicant has not received from the Examiner a copy of the form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of that form and the PTO date stamp receipt is attached.

II. **OBJECTION TO CLAIM 10**

The Office Action objects to claim 10 due to a typographical error. Claim 10 has been corrected. Withdrawal of this objection is specifically requested.

III. **THE CLAIMS DEFINE PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 and 16-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,627,627 to Suzuki; and rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,526,093 to Takahashi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Suzuki, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest all the features recited in independent claims 1, 10, and newly added claims 24 and 30. In particular, Suzuki does not disclose a plurality of divided regions (or shot regions) on a second object (or wafer) having different target exposure levels, as similarly recited in claims 1, 10, 24 and 30.

Furthermore, Suzuki fails to teach or suggest a transmittance of a light reducing member (or attenuator) that is determined so as to satisfy a predetermined exposure condition when a shot area which has a minimum target exposure level in the plurality of exposure levels is exposed, as is also similarly recited in claims 1, 10, 24 and 30.

To the contrary, Suzuki is silent about disclosing any plurality of divided regions on a second object having different target exposure levels. Suzuki also fails to make any mention of providing a light reducing member determined so as to satisfy a predetermined exposure condition when a shot area which has a minimum target exposure level in the plurality of exposure levels is exposed.

Takahashi fails to cure the deficiencies of Suzuki discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 10, 24 and 30.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Suzuki nor Takahashi alone or in combination, teach, suggest or render obvious all the subject matter of independent claims 1, 10, 24 and 30. Accordingly, the applied references also fail to render obvious the subject matter of claims 2-4, 6, 8-9, 11, 22, 25-29 and 31, which depend from claims 1, 10, 24 and 30 respectively. Thus, withdrawal of these rejections is therefore respectfully solicited.

IV. NEW CLAIMS

Claims 24-31 have been added and also are patentable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 24 and 30.

V. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

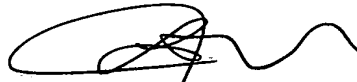
Applicant submits an accompanying Information Disclosure Statement and references for consideration by the Examiner.

VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC:RZE/lrc

Attachments:

Abstract
Information Disclosure Statement
Petition for Extension of Time
February 6, 2001 Form PTO-1449

Date: May 5, 2003

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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PTO RECEIPT FOR FILING OF PAPERS

The following papers have been filed:

IDS incl PTO 1449 and 3 refs

Name of Applicant: Ken OZAWA

Serial No.: 09/711,944

Atty. File No.: 107878

Title (New Cases):

Sender's Initials: JSA/zmc



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PATENT OFFICE DATE STAMP

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AND RETURNED BY MESSENGER**

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